



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** December 5, 2019

**Agenda Item:** Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan Advisory Committee (R4)

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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**Background:**

The very recently approved Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan guides fisheries management for Canyon Ferry, Hauser, and Holter reservoirs, and two Missouri River sections. A priority identified through public scoping was adaptability and responsiveness of the management plan in relation to dynamic fish populations. The management plan includes development of a citizen advisory committee that will meet with the department annually to review fish trends and goals to determine if management action is needed. Based on Appendix C in the management plan, the commission will appoint a five-member Citizen Advisory Committee to function in an advisory capacity to FWP for fisheries management decisions in the plan area. The committee will consist of no more than one advocate from five of the following stakeholder groups: unaffiliated warmwater anglers; unaffiliated coldwater anglers; organized warmwater angler groups; organized coldwater angler groups; ice-fishing anglers; conservation groups; kids' fishing; fishing tournament organizer; landowner; outfitter; local government; local business; and other interests.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

The concept for a Citizen Advisory Committee was developed by a citizen workgroup convened by the department to develop alternatives for the management plan. If endorsed by the commission, the department will solicit the public for applications to serve on the advisory committee. The department will review applications and recommend committee members to the commission at the February meeting. Committee members serve one-year appointments and can be reappointed by the commission annually.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

The commission could choose a different process to appoint the Citizen Advisory Committee.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move the commission endorse the department to accept applications to serve on the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan Citizen Advisory Committee.